

WALLSBURG, UTAH

The town of Walsburg is located about fourteen miles southeast of Heber City, Utah and has about three hundred persons living there.

It was named after William Madison Wall, a native of North Carolina, who during his lifetime was an explorer, colonizer, Military officer, political official and church leader.

William Madison Wall joined the L.D.S. Church at the age 21 and came to the Utah Territory in 1850 as a Captain of 50 people. He also assisted in organizing the Mormon Battalion.

He first settled in Provo, Utah where he was appointed Marshall and then later appointed Sheriff of Utah County.

His term as Sheriff was often bullet punctuated, since the friction between Mormons and anti-mormon was high, and federal troops, commanded by General Johnston, was also stationed in Utah County.

Wall was also one of the most skillful Indian negotiators among the Mormons.

It was 1860 that William M. Wall moved his family and all their belonging to what the Indians called Round Valley. A valley practically enclosed by mountains and was an ideal place to graze cattle because of the protective hills.

By the winter of 1864-65 it became a permanent settlement, with five families staying there that winter. The men had been so busy building homes etc. that they failed to get enough hay put up for their cattle to winter on. Before spring broke their livestock were on the verge of starvation. They diverted the warm water of Spring Creek out on the meadows, melting the two feet deep snow from the grass and saved their stock.

The early settlers soon found the water supply was sufficient and that the community needed more people to build socially as well as financially, so more people moved in.

Now and then the Indians stole some cattle from the people but eventually

left the people alone. However the settlement was at least a days wagon ride away from other settlements in the valley so in 1865 a fort was built for protection and twenty families moved into it.

A meeting house was built inside the fort. It was built out of cottonwood logs from the river bottoms and mud was put into the cracks.

When the valley was first settled, the farming was done on a cooperative basis. All men worked together on the land and crops divided at harvest time. Later the land was divided in 20 to 40 acre tracts and the settlers applied for homesteading rights.

The Ward was organized July 12, 1877 and Bishop William Nuttal was appointed. The people began looking for a suitable name for their Ward and Community. It was unanimously decided that Round Valley from henceforth should be Wallsburg in honor of the illustrious William Madison Wall, founder and first citizen of the community.

The first Post Office was directed by William E. Nuttal and the mail was carried by horseback and carriage by Dixon Greer.

The following served as postmasters in this order, William E. Nuttal, George Dabbling, Lucina Boren, Don Biglow, Steven D. Greer, Della Mecham, Orpha Wall, Alice Graham and Phyllis Davis.

At present the town has changed much. Consolidation of the schools took the school from the community. The children now attend school at Heber City, Utah.

The dairy farms have disappeared one at a time until only three left in the valley and the range permits have been sold until few beef cattle are raised as used to be.

The farms that people own now are used as a secondary income. Few make their sole living from farming. They have jobs outside the town and use their farm as supplementary income or even a hobby. Other hobbies are the raising and showing of pure bred horses, mainly quarter horses and some a paloosa are raised.

The valley is surrounded by mountains that are beautiful to see any time of the year but in autumn the beauty is undescrivable. One has to see it to believe.

History of the Postmasters---

William E. Nuttal was born at Corlisle England on October 29, 1825.

In his youth he wanted to follow the trade of his father and grandfather as shipwright so he apprenticed out and went to sea for ten years to learn his trade. He sailed all over the world and learned much about its people.

He met and married Rosamond Watson, August 4, 1851 in Liverpool, England and they had 13 children. He and his wife came to America arriving April 25, 1852, after 8 weeks of travel on the ocean.

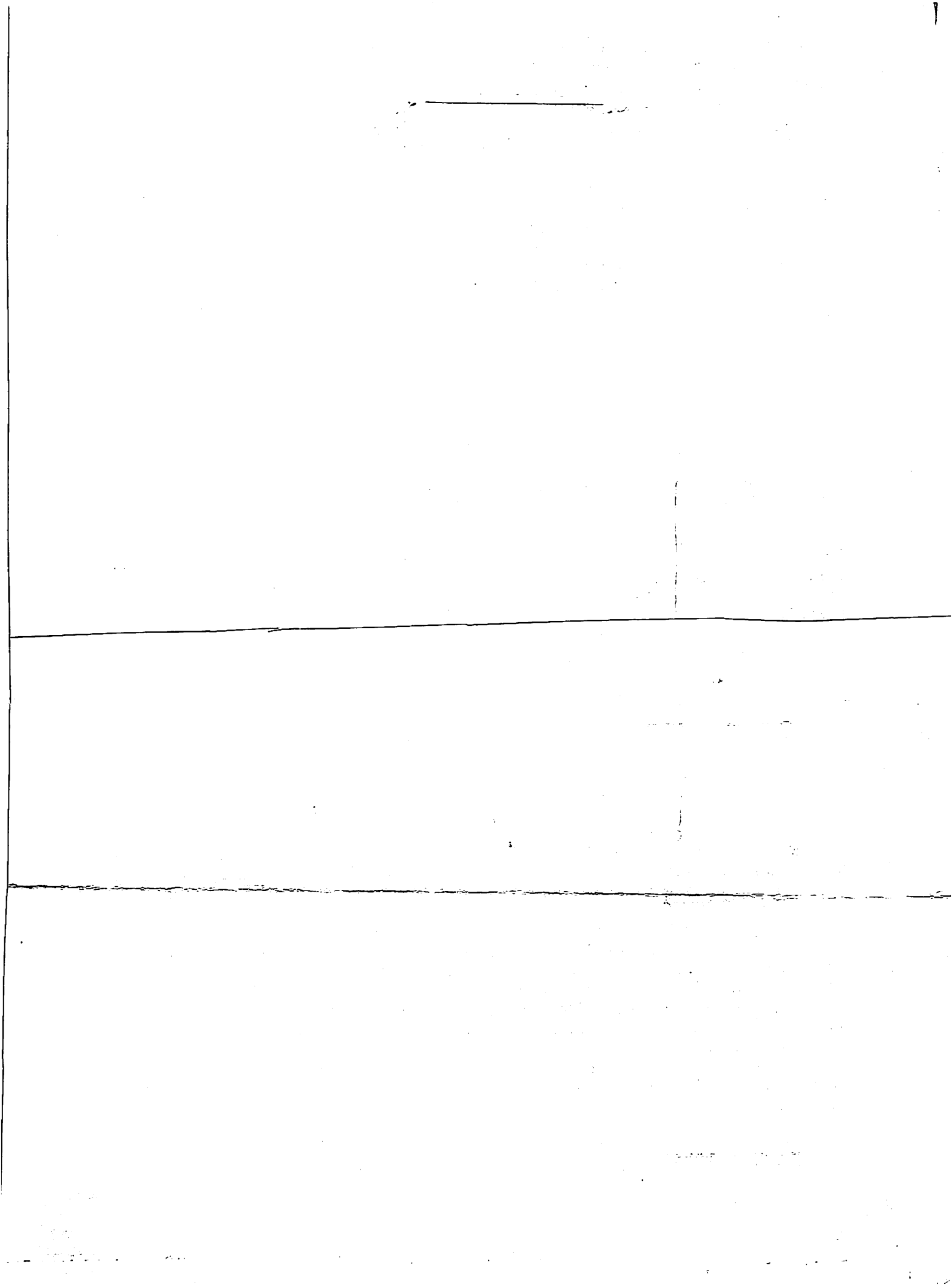
William was made the first Bishop of Wallsburg. He also served as postmaster for many years and as town doctor and dentist. He set many broken bones.

George Dabbling was born July 28, 1863 in Midway, Utah and married Ada Glen July 3, 1882. They had twelve children.

George never had a music teacher but he could play the organ, mandolin, guitar, violin and all kinds of brass instruments. He had a good voice and organized choirs and glee clubs. He helped put on operettas and concerts. He organized and directed a brass band called the silver Cornet Band. The band was in demand for dances and entertaining being the only one of its kind in the county at the time. During the Spanish American War, they used to go to Heber and serenade the boys when they left for the Army.

He opened a store. The first telephone in Wallsburg was installed in his store. For a time the calls were mostly news of deaths and other emergencies relayed to the townspeople through this single telephone. He was postmaster for several years.

Lucina Boren was born March 11, 1841 in Lee Co., Iowa. She remembered, when a child, of sitting on the Profit Joseph Smiths lap many times. She also saw the bodies of Profit Joseph and his brother Hyrum after they were killed. She recalled how the dogs howled all night the night of the murder of Profit



and his brother.
She made the long journey across the plains and helped support herself by working after she came to Utah. She also learned to spin and weave very well.

She met and married William Jasper Boren. They had 13 children.

She was the first school teacher in Wallsburg and also was Postmaster. She was Ward organist for six years. As no doctors were close she was midwife for several years and had the opportunity to deliver 503 babies.

She died May 16, 1900 at Wallsburg, Utah.

Don L. Biglow was born at Heber City, Utah May 22, 1866. He married Annie Marie Boren April 29, 1891 in the Manti Temple and they had 11 children.

He loved to read and his recreation was fishing and dancing which he enjoyed very much.

He was a farmer and also postmaster of Wallsburg. He retired from farming in 1939. After which he spent the rest of his life working in the Salt Lake and St. George Temple. He died July 5, 1954.

Stephen D. Greer was born January 13, 1874 at Wallsburg, Utah. He married Susanna Gardener on October 23, 1895 in the Salt Lake City Temple.

He served a mission for the L.D.S. Church at Indianapolis, Indiana.

He received his early education in the Wallsburg School. At the age of sixteen, attended the Brigham Young Academy, attending from 1890 to 1895.

After his mission he engaged in the cattle and later he owned a small general merchandising store at Wallsburg. He was postmaster for several years.

Through out his life he was very interested in his community, did much good for it. He was responsible for obtaining the first school bus for hauling high school students to Heber City. He was largely responsible for getting his home town electrical power, and culinary water supply in most of the homes in the community. He also was responsible for improving the community cemetery.

He was a great reader of good books. He was a very good neighbor and was always kind. He moved to Provo in 1954 where his wife died January 24, 1956. He lived by himself in Provo until his death May 7, 1961. They had four children Carl, Thelma, Hope and Grant.

Mary Della Mecham was born December 31, 1886 in Draper, Utah. She was the oldest girl in the family, there being seven children.

When she was a young girl the family moved to Charleston, Utah, where her father was a section foreman for the railroad and her mother ran a hotel.

Later they moved to Wallsburg, Utah. Here her father engaged in dairying and general farming.

She married Wallace Mecham and was the mother of six children.

She was Primary President for a number of years, a Sunday School teacher and a Relief Society Officer.

She was Postmaster at Wallsburg for nearly five years (1916-21) at which time they moved to Orem so the children could attend high school.

She did a great amount of Temple work for the L.D.S. Church.

Her hobby was raising beautiful flowers, sewing for her children and grandchildren, helping in times of sickness.

She was a widow for over thirty years. To complete rearing her family, she became the lunch supervisor at the Lincoln High school in Orem for about 12 years.

She had the art of making numerous friends. At the time of her death she had 47 grandchildren and 37 great grandchildren.

Orpha Swen Wall was born in Wallsburg and received her education at the (Greer) Wallsburg Central School.

Her husband is Marvie Wall. They were married September 11, 1912 in the Salt Lake Temple and had three children, Wendall, Russell and Ruby.

She also has 14 grandchildren and seven great grandchildren.

I, Orpha Wall, was made acting postmaster after Della Mecham. She was going to move to Provo and ask if I would just be an acting postmaster until someone else could be found. I consented after much thought and afterward decided to take the test and was appointed Postmaster. I acted in this capacity